



## "REASONS TO REJOICE"

"Your Words were found and I ate them, and Your Word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart." Jeremiah 15:16

### PROVERBS LESSON 9

In chapters 13 and 14, we find a long list of Proverbs that contrast the righteous with the ungodly. Chapter 13 doesn't have any themes that haven't been discussed yet, but while some appear to be simply repetitions, others develop the theme a bit further. Sometimes it's hard to follow the contrasts when the text is jumping back and forth from topic to topic. To make it easier, this week we'll be making a chart with 4 columns where you list different categories, then by the end of the chapter, you can have an overview of each topic. For instance, you can have columns that read: Righteous man described, the results, or fruit of being righteous, an ungodly man described, the results, or fruit of the ungodly. You can title the columns whatever you'd like. Have fun!

#### First Day

1. Read through Proverbs 13:1-25. Make your 4 columns and list, by phrase, the verses that fit into each. I've listed one example for you.

#### **Righteous Man Described**

Wise man guards his mouth (3)

#### **Fruit of the Righteous**

His life is preserved (3)



Hopefully you got a good taste of chapter 13. May you continue to allow His Word to permeate your heart.

**Memory Verse of the Week:** "A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke." Proverbs 13:1

### Second Day

**Work on your memory verse. Do you heed your Heavenly Father's instruction?**

Yesterday I asked why verse 1 was the main subject of the chapter. Eric Lane points out that to follow the instruction of the wise, we must begin by listening, which starts in the home as kids. He goes on to point out that according to verse 10, our pride can keep us from listening to our teachers. Verse 13 reiterates verse 10, but also shows that the foolish scorn, or fail to take seriously, the advice. Verse 18 points out the consequences of ignoring instruction, and verse 24 brings us full circle, back to the family unit. It seems to all point back to the foolishness of not being willing to receive correction.

1. Read Proverbs 13:1. Why is it so foolish to disregard or refuse to listen to a rebuke?
2. How does this "discipline" or "art of listening" start from childhood in the home?
3. To actually "heed" correction or advice, we must first be willing to listen. Why is actually *listening* sometimes so difficult? What are we afraid of?

4. When you were young, did you heed the advice of your parents? Are there areas where, looking back, you can see the wisdom in the advice they were giving you?
  
5. How has being a parent, if you are one, changed your perspective on listening to your parents?
  
6. Verses 2 and 3 refer to our speech once again. (Also read 21:23) How do we "guard" our mouth? When we open it "wide," what can happen?
  
7. We've already discussed the tongue and some of the dangers of using it. Have you made any improvements or adapted any changes in the words you're using? In the tone you're using? In the things you're saying?
  
8. In your own words, can you explain verse 4?

Once again, Solomon brings up the dangers and perils of laziness. The diligent can be satisfied because they are willing to work for what they have. The sluggard, on the other hand, desires things but is unwilling to put in the work or the time to either receive or accomplish something. He's actually useless; more of a free-loader.



2. Read verses 7-8. The phrase "makes himself" can be translated as "pretends." Why is pretending to be rich or poor wrong? Who do you think he may be trying to mislead, in either case?

This example is thought to specifically be talking about misleading others to evade their responsibility to the poor. It's always wrong to try to mislead. It's deceiving and dishonest. After all, look what happened to Ananias and Sapphira in Acts chapter 5!

3. Do you struggle with pretending to be something you're not, or having more or less than you really have? Search your heart on this one. What is motivating that attitude? How can you adjust and change that attitude?
4. Verse 8 is an interesting one. What is one advantage of "not" being rich?
5. What are some problems or challenges that the rich face that the poor don't?

In verse 9, Solomon uses two common metaphors; light and lamp. In those days, the nights were long and their tents were lighted with little lamps. When they went out, the darkness was deafening. The wicked are represented as dim, running out when the fuel is gone or the lamp is blown out. Those who don't follow the path of the righteous will eventually find themselves in complete darkness.

6. Read verse 10 again. Define the word "pride". How does it have the potential to cause contention?
  
7. Read Luke 22:24-27. How did pride cause contention in this instance? What was Jesus' advice?
  
8. Are you involved in any type of "contention" at the moment? Are you willing to examine your heart and see what part of it is a result of your own pride? Is there any relationship right now in your life where pride has caused the problem?
  
9. How can our "hurt" even be a result of our pride?

Well, this was a hard one today. It's never fun to examine your heart for pride, is it? But oh so healthy. I honestly didn't like what I found in mine. I pray that once we see and identify it, we'll do something about it. See you tomorrow!

#### **Fourth Day**

**Are you working on your verse?**

1. Read Proverbs 13:11. What are two ways of making money according to this verse? Explain the contrast.

2. What is the value of working hard, saving up, little by little? What can it teach you?

3. Read Proverbs 13:12. What does the word "deferred" mean? What is this verse saying?

I've read many explanations of this verse. I have always believed that the verse was simply saying that when we hope for something for a long period of time, it's easy to become sick, or discouraged. Although I still think it's true, I think we can go even deeper by expanding the application. When you make promises to people and don't keep your word, are you causing them pain? Can it be exhorting us to make sure we don't set our hope on anything from this world because it is always uncertain? Is it reminding us that our hope should only be in God? Perhaps it's encouraging us to be patient because when it comes, it's like a tree of life bringing joy to our souls? What do you think?

4. Has your hope ever been deferred, causing you even more pain? How can we guard ourselves from the discouragement of this?

Hope is something we can't live without. We can usually cope with "whatever" if we know better things are on the horizon. When that hope is not realized, we become sick of heart. Hubbard said, "Depression moves in and brings its roommate along - hopelessness."

5. Read Romans 5:5-8. How are these verses some of the most "hopeful" in God's Word?
  
6. Read Proverbs 13:13-14. Do you respect the Word of God? If so, what will be the reward?
  
7. Read 13:15-16. What do these verses say about our relationships with others?

Basically, a person's character is consistent with his behavior. A fool's behavior simply exposes who he is. The phrase "lays open" his folly can be translated, "like a peddler who openly spreads his wares before the gaze of all men." (Crawford H. Toy)

8. Last verse for today. Read Proverbs 13:17. When crucial messages are delivered accurately, what is the end result? How can you apply this verse to yourself? What can we learn about misrepresenting people, or being careful with our facts?

See you tomorrow, lovely ladies. I pray that you are finding joy from these amazing truths. There's even joy in being convicted, right? After we repent we can be forgiven and free!

## Fifth Day

**Write out your verse from memory.**

1. Let's finish today by reading Proverbs 13:18-25, then go back and focus on verse 18. How can refusing correction or reproof lead to poverty and shame?
2. Contrast verse 18 with verse 23. Do you see a different cause for poverty in these verses?

Verse 23 can be viewed a few ways. Sometimes people are poor because of their own bad choices, lazy habits, etc. But there are times when people are poor by no fault of their own. Often they have no control over the circumstances or other people who treat them unjustly. Proverbs often talks about how we treat the poor and warns against treating them harshly or unfairly (Proverbs 18:23; 28:8).

3. If you are financially struggling, what would you say is the root cause of it? Is it a result of circumstances or personal bad choices, lack of money managing skills, etc. (You don't have to share your answer out loud, obviously, but it's a good thing to think about. Often people blame God when they are financially struggling, when many times it's the fruit of their own choices.)
4. Can you think of any "blessings" of being poor? What lessons can you learn from it?

5. Verse 19 reminds us of the joy and satisfaction we feel when something is accomplished. Have you experienced this?
  
6. Read verse 20. Solomon tells us of another way to increase our wisdom. What is it? Explain the principle behind this Proverb.
  
7. To walk with the wise you must first discern who the wise are. How do you do this?
  
8. Read verses 21-22. Verse 21 is a great example of a contrast of the sinner and the righteous. In 22, where do the righteous hope to leave their wealth? What principle is he getting at?

Back in ancient times, businesses were more family-based. Fathers left their business to their sons, etc. So not only did they pass on good training of character, godliness, etc., they passed on actual land and businesses, and the family trade. Perhaps the foolish tend to be misers and store it, or are lazy about looking after it, and lose it to the hands of another.

9. Read Proverbs 13:24 and explain the principle behind this Proverb to the best of your understanding.

10. What are the consequences of withholding discipline from your kids when they need it?

When a child needs to be disciplined, it's the true loving parent who is willing to inflict a temporary pain to avoid a disastrous future (Proverbs 23:13-14). Our role as parents is to train our kids to become wise, God-loving adults. Discipline must come from love and never from pride or anger.

11. Read the following verses on discipline and write the main point of each:

- A. Proverbs 19:18
- B. Proverbs 22:15
- C. Proverbs 23:13-14
- D. Proverbs 29:15, 17

We will be discussing the discipline of our children more specifically in one of the upcoming lessons when we have more time. I wanted to at least start you meditating on the verses above because we are living in a society that appears to have thrown discipline in child rearing out the window. Start praying and mulling over the principles behind these verses.

12. Read Hebrews 12:5-6. Does this shed any light on the topic of discipline?

Proverbs 13:25 wraps it all up by reminding us that God takes care of the needs of the righteous. Remember that these Proverbs were written when Israel was under the Old Covenant, when God's promises were conditional. "If you obey Me, then this would happen" type of thing. Although we are now under the New Covenant and His promises aren't conditional, the principle of this verse remains true today. So stay on the right path!!